SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
AUG.
NO. 15
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Rip Hunter...
TIME MASTER
BUT WHAT SORT OF BEINGS ARE THEY? I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM BEFORE!
RIP! THESE PREHISTORIC CREATURES CAN SPEAK...AND THEY REGARD US AS STRANGE, PRIMITIVE BEINGS!
"The EARTHLINGS of 5,000,000 B.C.!"

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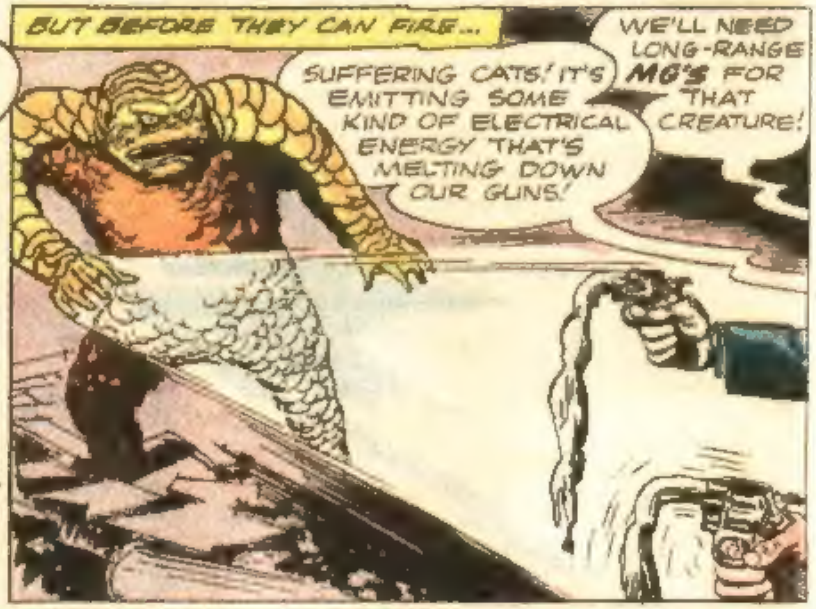
Printed in U.S.A.

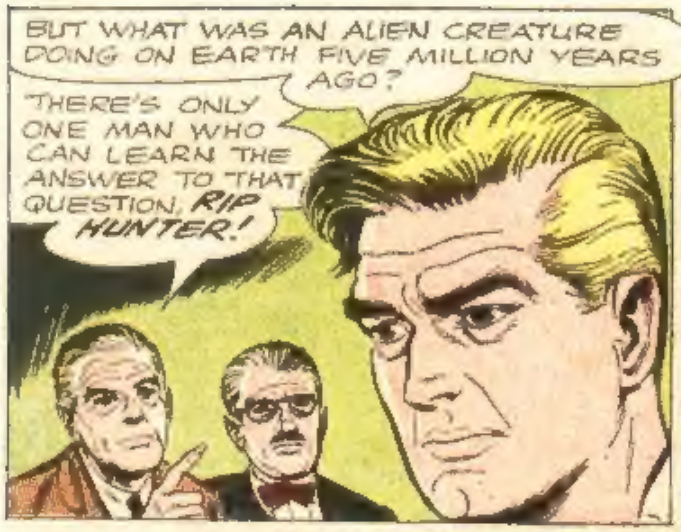
THE PEACEFUL AIR OF A SUNDAY AFTERNOON IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED BY A CRY OF TERROR...
CRASH
HELP! A-AN ALIEN CREATURE-- ON A RAMPAGE!

WE'LL TRY FRIGHTENING IT BACK WITH A COUPLE OF WARNING SHOTS!

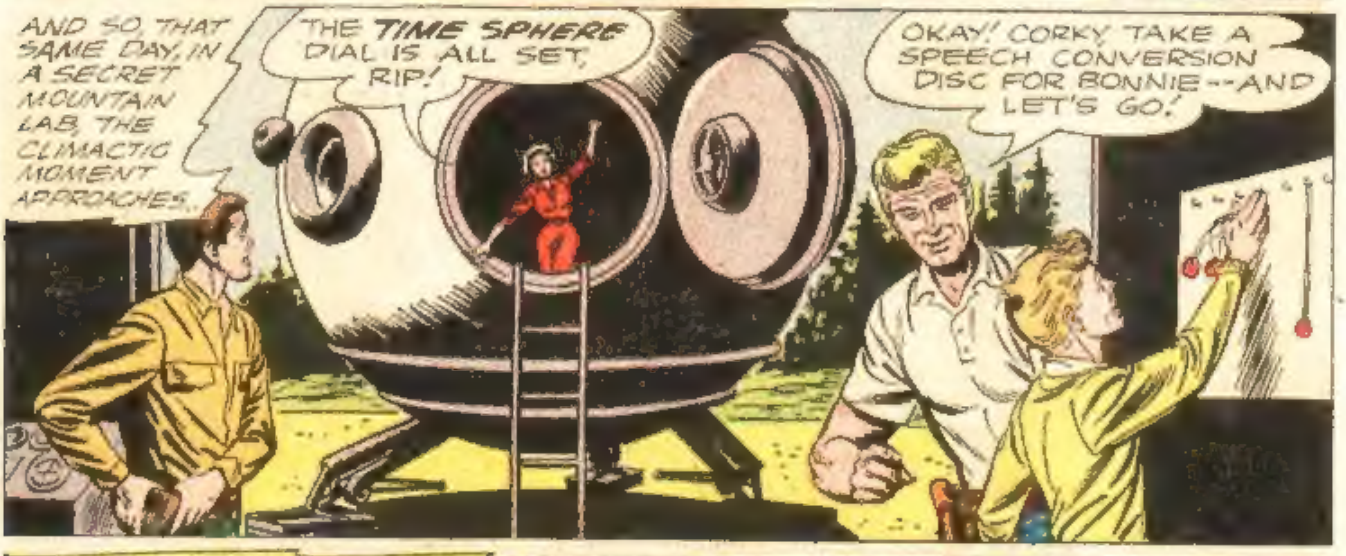

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE...
SUFFERING CATS! IT'S EMITTING SOME KIND OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY THAT'S MELTING DOWN OUR GUNS!
WE'LL NEED LONG-RANGE MG'S FOR THAT CREATURE!

SHORTLY, AS A MACHINE-GUN IS RUSHED TO THE SCENE...
BRAT-TAT-TAT TATTA-TAT-TAT
BAH!... WHAT'S THE USE? NOW IT'S REPELLING THE BULLETS WITH ANOTHER FORM OF ENERGY!
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED.. ONE OF OUR PLANES IS GOING TO DIVE-BOMB IT!

BUT IN THE UNFORGETTABLE MINUTES THAT ENSUE:
THE ROAR OF THE PLANE'S ENGINES ENDS IN A SQUEALING GASP, AS...
CRUNCH
MEANWHILE, AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING, TO WHICH RIP HUNTER, THE FAR-FAMED TIME MASTER, HAS BEEN SUMMONED...
I PRESUME MY VISIT HERE IS RELATED TO THAT ALIEN BEAST, GENTLEMEN!
YES, MR HUNTER! WE BELIEVE WE HAVE DISCOVERED ITS ORIGIN!
GREAT GUNS-- LOOK! THAT CREATURE CAN MANIPULATE ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AT WILL! IT'S GROWING A MILE!
YOU MEAN--YOU'VE LOCATED THE SPACE-SHIP IT CAME IN?
NO--A CAVE, WHICH WAS RECENTLY OPENED! OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE CREATURE WAS SEALED UP IN THERE FOR-- FIVE MILLION YEARS!

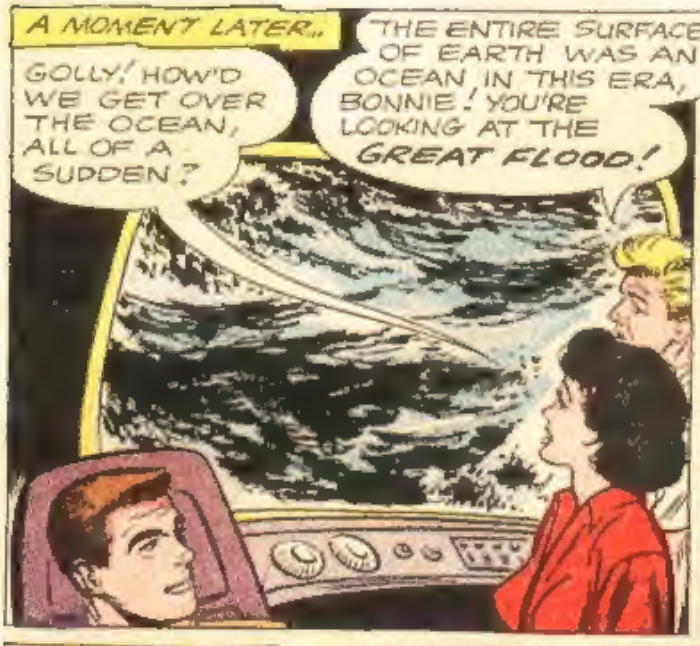

BUT WHAT WAS AN ALIEN CREATURE DOING ON EARTH FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO?
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN LEARN THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, RIP HUNTER!

I GET YOUR POINT... I'LL PREPARE TO LEAVE AT ONCE!

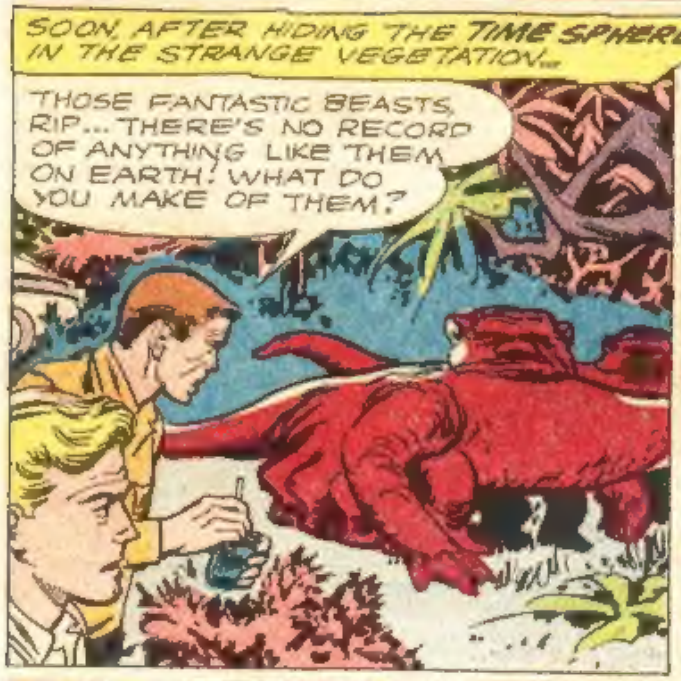

AND SO, THAT SAME DAY, IN A SECRET MOUNTAIN LAB, THE CLIMACTIC MOMENT APPROACHES...
THE TIME SPHERE DIAL IS ALL SET, RIP!
OKAY! CORKY, TAKE A SPEECH CONVERSION DISC FOR BONNIE--AND LET'S GO!

MINUTES LATER, THE TIME SPHERE'S HATCH CLANGS SHUT, AND POWERFUL ELECTRONIC ENGINES THROB INTO ACTION...
YIPEE! FIVE MILLION YEARS INTO THE PAST! THERE WEREN'T PEOPLE ON EARTH THEN, WERE THERE, RIP?

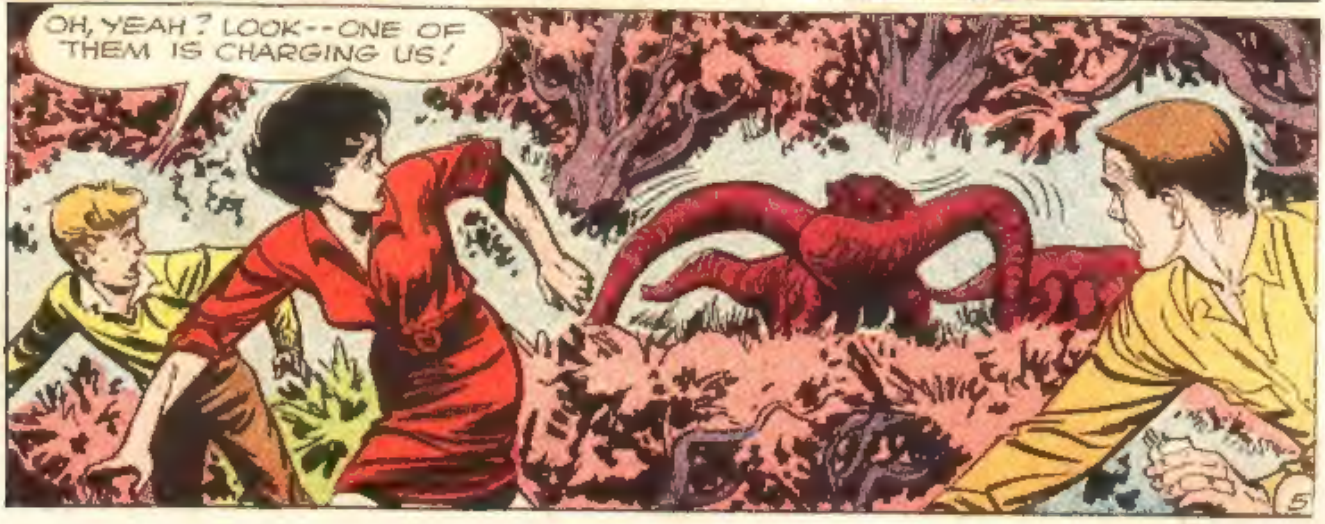
NO, CORKY... RIGHT NOW, WE'RE LOOKING AT ONE OF OUR EARLIEST FORBEARS -- THE CRO-MAGNON MAN -- 25,000 YEARS IN THE PAST!


A MOMENT LATER..
GOLLY! HOW'D WE GET OVER THE OCEAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF EARTH WAS AN OCEAN, IN THIS ERA, BONNIE! YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE GREAT FLOOD!

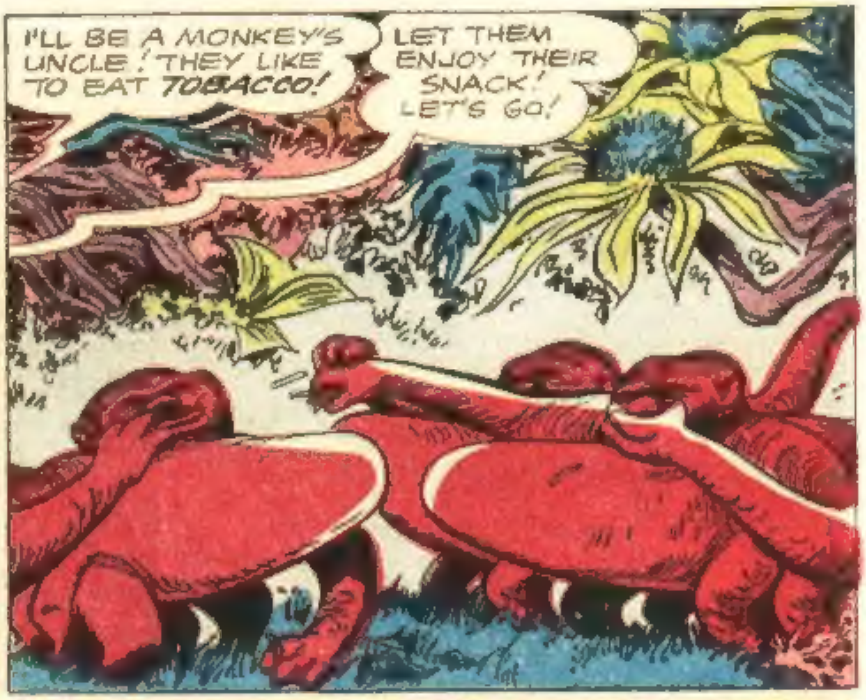
SHORTLY...
WE'VE ARRIVED, RIP! BUT TAKE A PEEP AT THE CRAZY VEGETATION!
HMM... SECURE FOR LANDING, JEFF!


SOON, AFTER HIDING THE TIME SPHERE IN THE STRANGE VEGETATION...
THOSE FANTASTIC BEASTS, RIP... THERE'S NO RECORD OF ANYTHING LIKE THEM ON EARTH! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM?

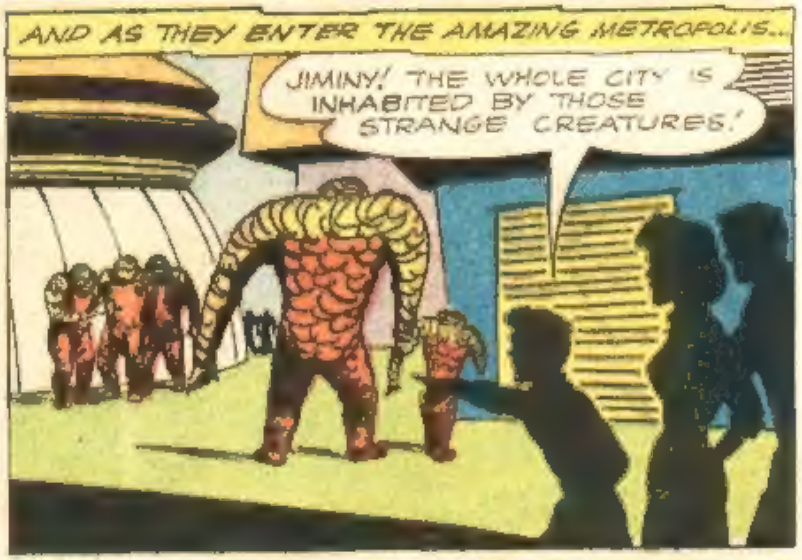
I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE BY THE SAME ALIENS WHO BROUGHT THE CREATURE THAT WOKE UP IN OUR TIME! THEY SEEM DOCILE ENOUGH!

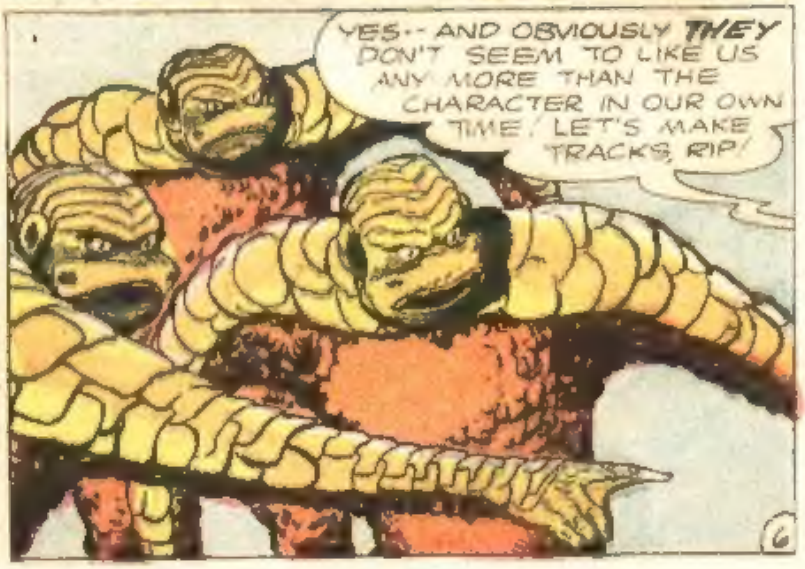

OH, YEAH? LOOK--ONE OF THEM IS CHARGING US!

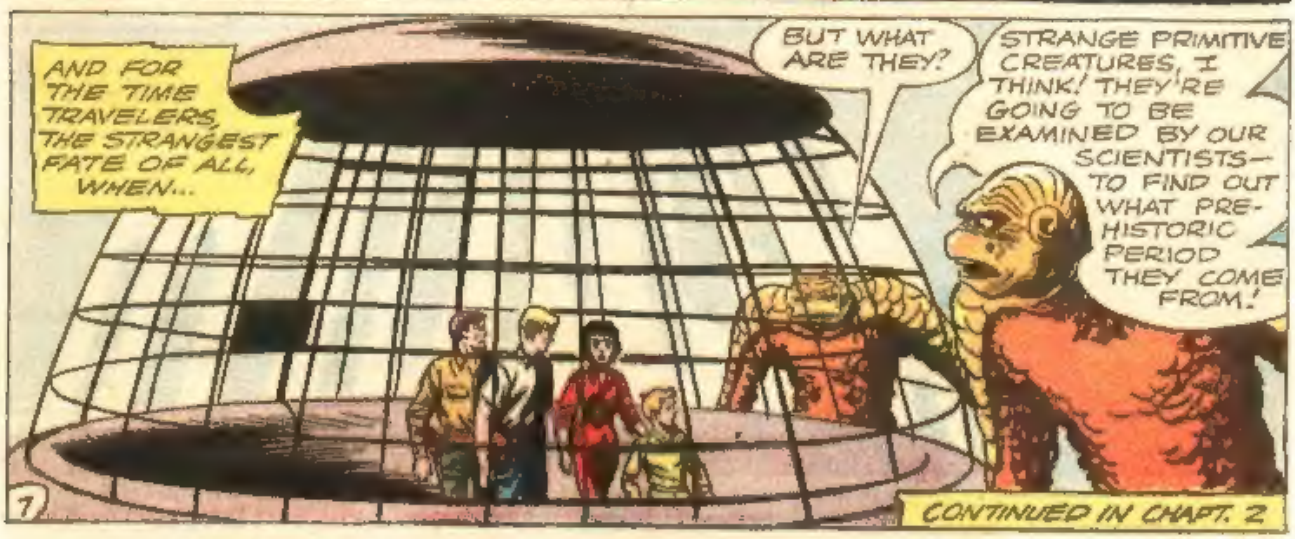
BUT IT WAS PERFECTLY GENTLE UNTIL--WAIT!... GIVE ME THESE CIGARETTES, JEFF!


I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE! THEY LIKE TO EAT TOBACCO!
LET THEM ENJOY THEIR SNACK! LET'S GO!

BEFORE LONG, A STARTLING SIGHT GREETS THE TIME TRAVELERS...
GOOD GRACIOUS! AM I SEEING THINGS? THERE'S A--A SUPER-MODERN CITY UP AHEAD!
COME ON!


AND AS THEY ENTER THE AMAZING METROPOLIS...
JIMINY! THE WHOLE CITY IS INHABITED BY THOSE STRANGE CREATURES!


YES-- AND OBVIOUSLY THEY DON'T SEEM TO LIKE US ANY MORE THAN THE CHARACTER IN OUR OWN TIME! LET'S MAKE TRACKS, RIP!



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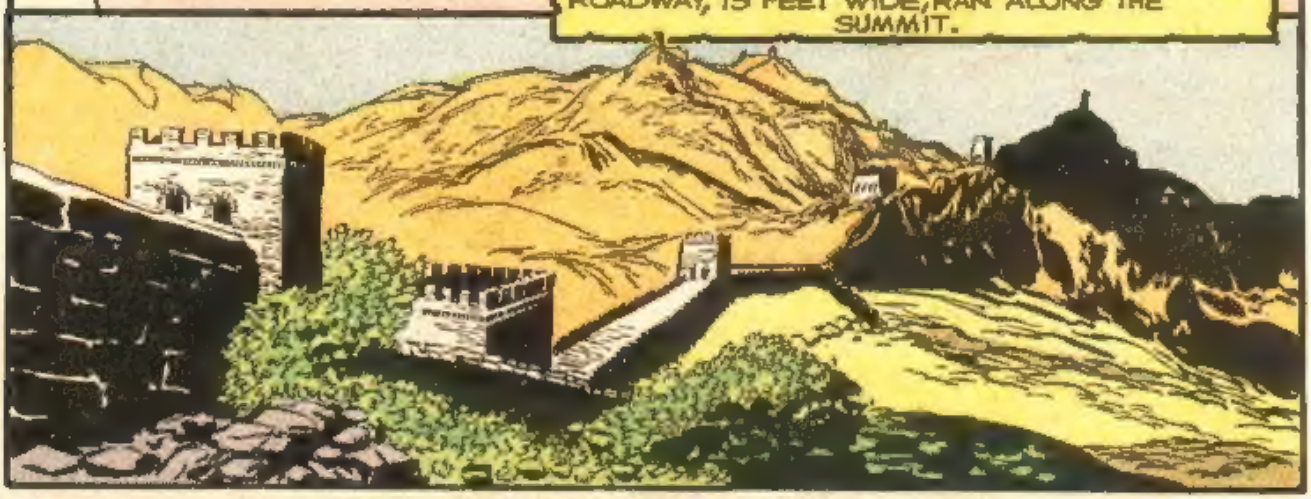
Tootsie Roll

THE TIME JOURNAL

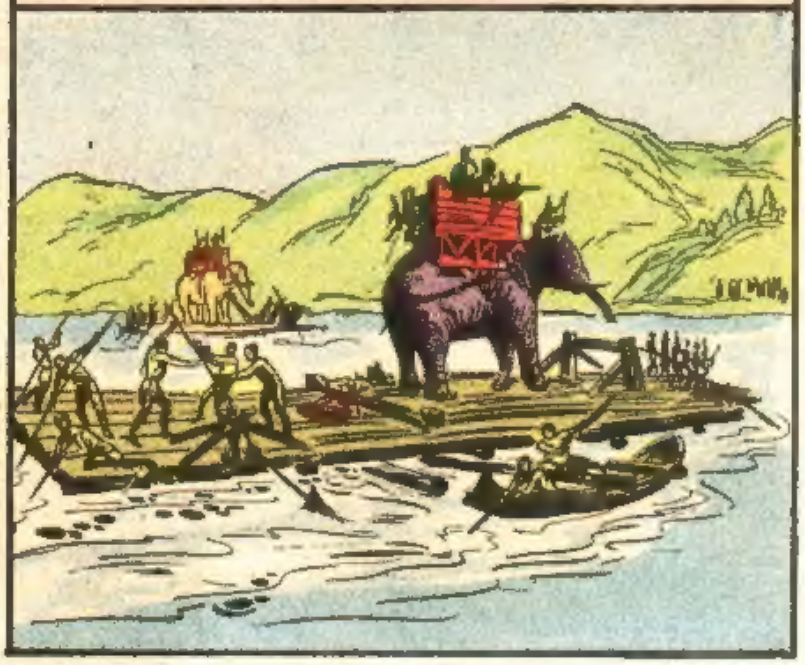
STRANGE AND CURIOUS FACTS COLLECTED BY RIP HUNTER ON HIS AMAZING ADVENTURES INTO THE PAST

IN 210 B.C., CHINA COMPLETED ITS "GREAT WALL," STARTED AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THE MARAUDING HUNS. THE GREAT WALL WOUND OVER MOUNTAIN, VALLEY, STREAM, AND PLAIN FOR 1400 MILES. CONSIDERED IMPREGNABLE, IT WAS FACED WITH BRICK OR GRANITE, AND FILLED IN WITH EARTH TO A HEIGHT OF 20 FEET. A USABLE ROADWAY, 13 FEET WIDE, RAN ALONG THE SUMMIT.



IN *MEMPHIS, EGYPT,* IN *1440 B.C.,* CITY HOUSES WERE BUILT CLOSE TOGETHER, AND THE ROOFS SERVED A DOUBLE PURPOSE-- EXTENDED TO SHADE THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE FROM THE HOT EGYPTIAN SUN, THEY WERE ALSO FENCED OFF FOR PRIVACY, AND USED FOR COOKING AND STORAGE.

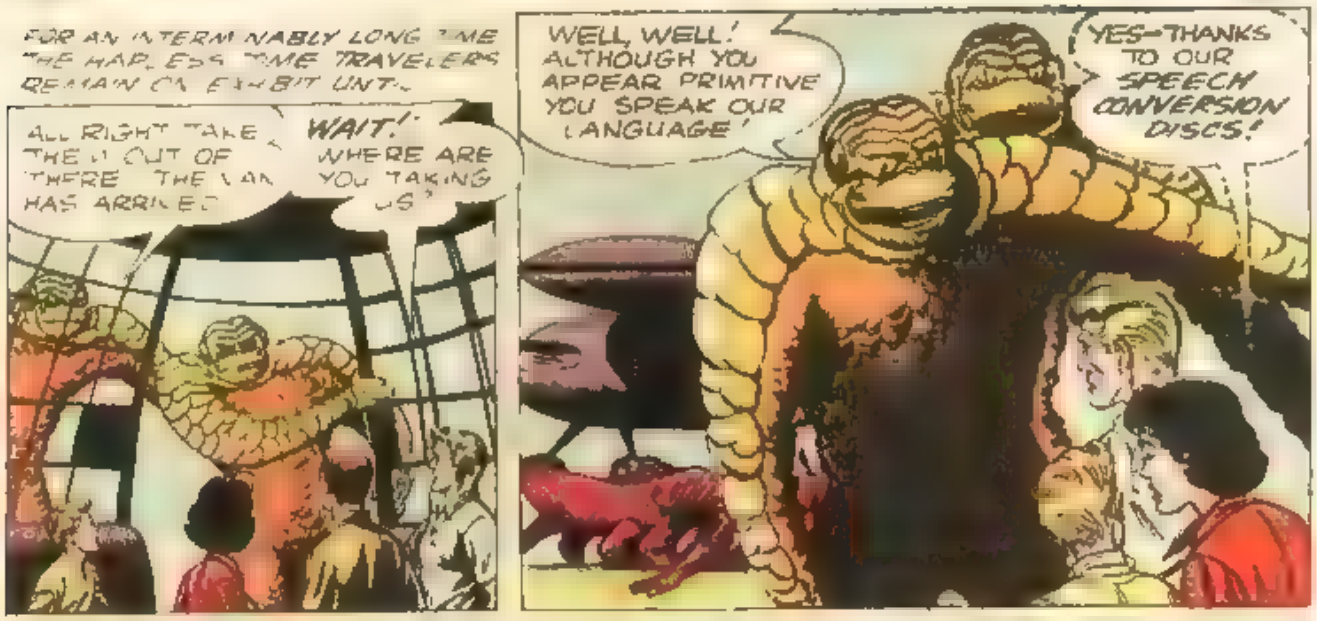
IN *216 B.C.,* THE CARTHAGINIAN GENERAL, HANNIBAL, SOLVED A STICKY TRANSPORT PROBLEM, IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE ROMANS, BY MOUNTING ELEPHANTS ON RAFTS, WHICH WERE THEN PUSHED ACROSS THE RIVER.



A GRIM FATE AWAITS THE TIME TRAVELERS IN THE FANTASTIC CIVILIZATION OF FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO, WHEN THEY BECOME...

the EXPERIMENTAL CREATURES

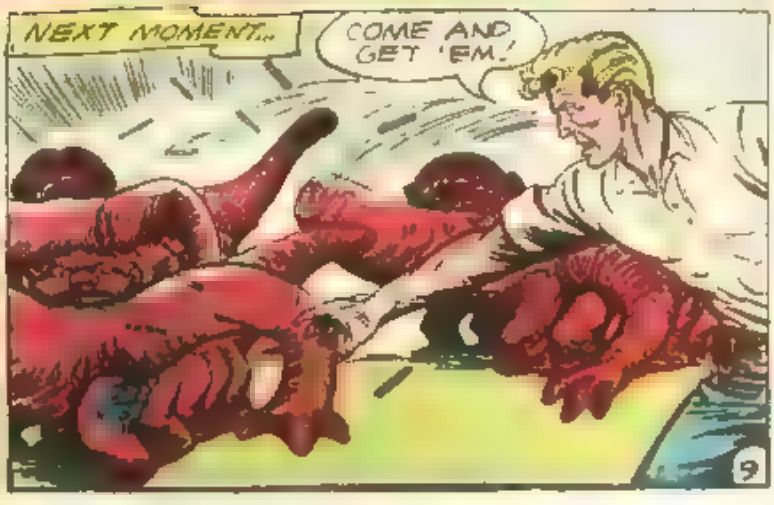
Chapter 2

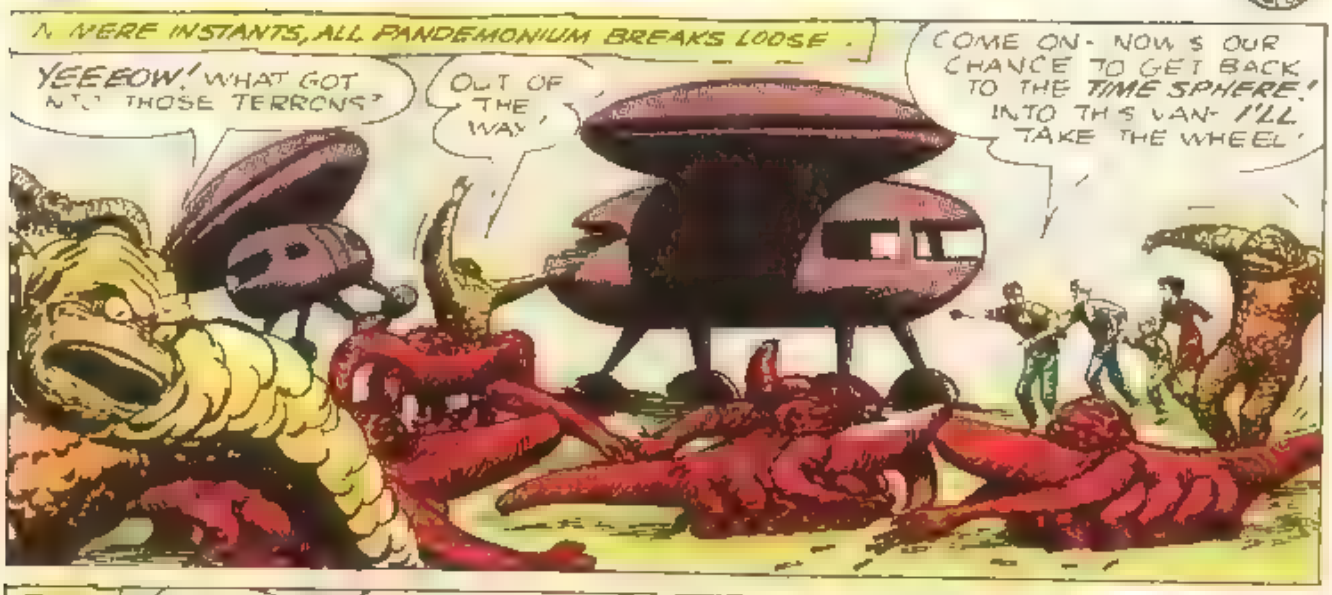

FOR AN INTERMINABLY LONG TIME THE HAPLESS TIME TRAVELERS REMAIN ON EXHIBIT UNTIL...
ALL RIGHT TAKE THEM OUT OF THERE THE VAN HAS ARRIVED
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
WELL, WELL! ALTHOUGH YOU APPEAR PRIMITIVE YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!
YES—THANKS TO OUR SPEECH CONVERSION DISCS!

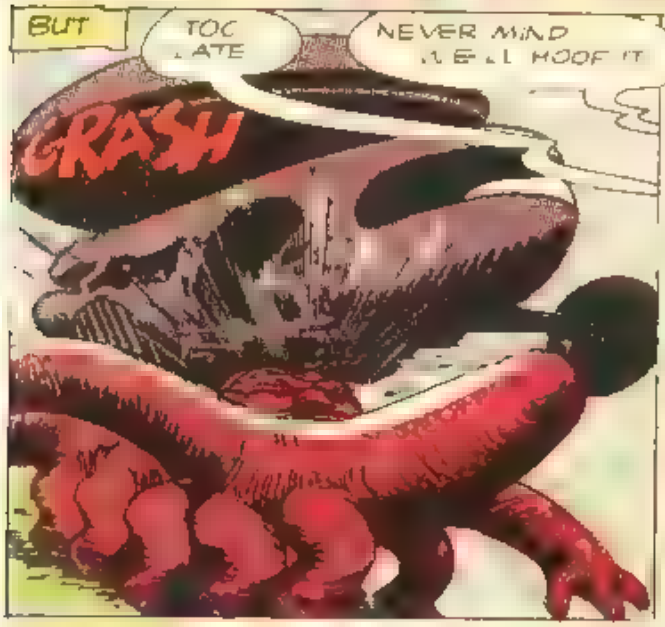
SINCE YOU ASK- YOU ARE BEING TAKEN TO THE HOUSE OF SCIENCE, WHERE YOU WILL BE SUBJECTED TO EXHAUSTIVE TESTS!
HEY-- I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, RIP!

NEITHER DO I, JEFF... BUT... HMM THOSE FANTASTIC BEASTS ARE APPARENTLY GENTLE ENOUGH TO HAVE THE RUN OF THE CITY--LIKE DOGS AND CATS IN OUR TIME!

I'VE GOT A BRAINSTORM! QUICK, JEFF--HAND ME ANOTHER PACK OF CIGARETTES!

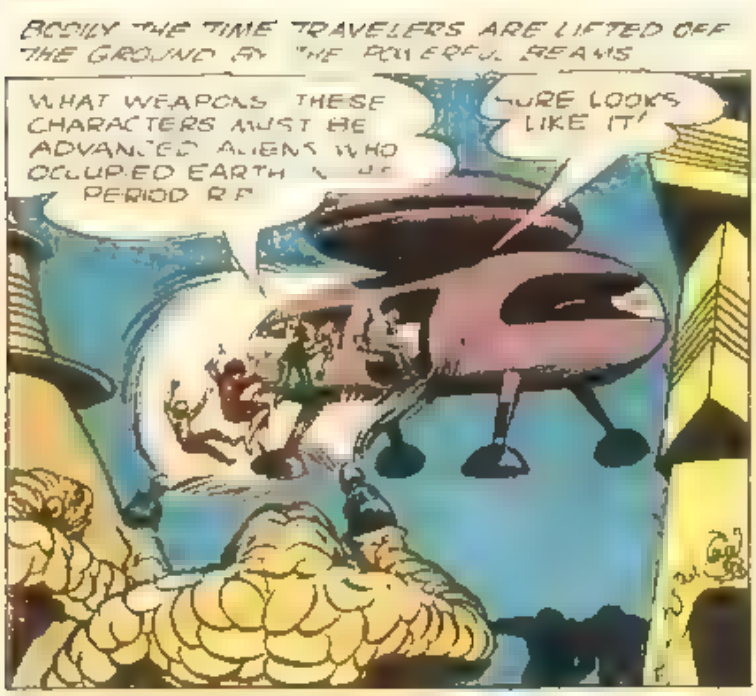

NEXT MOMENT...
COME AND GET 'EM!


A WERE INSTANTS, ALL PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE.
YEEEOW! WHAT GOT INTO THOSE TERRONS?
OUT OF THE WAY!
COME ON - NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO GET BACK TO THE TIME SPHERE! INTO THIS VAN - I'LL TAKE THE WHEEL!


BUT
TOO LATE
NEVER MIND WE'LL HOOF IT
CRASH

KEEP GOING - AROUND THE CORNER

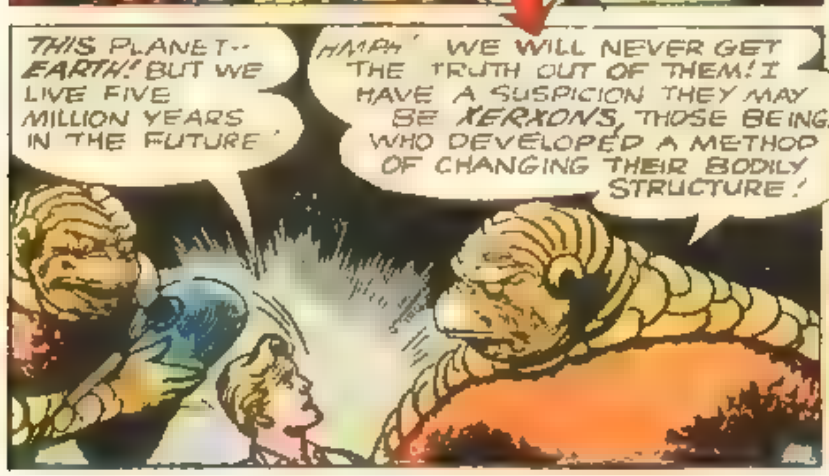
BUT, ABRUPTLY..
OH, NO!... THOSE STRANGE BEAMS - STOPPING US COLD!
SSST


BODILY THE TIME TRAVELERS ARE LIFTED OFF THE GROUND BY THE POWERFUL BEAMS
WHAT WEAPONS THESE CHARACTERS MUST BE ADVANCED ALIENS WHO OCCUPIED EARTH IN THE PERIOD R.F.
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT!

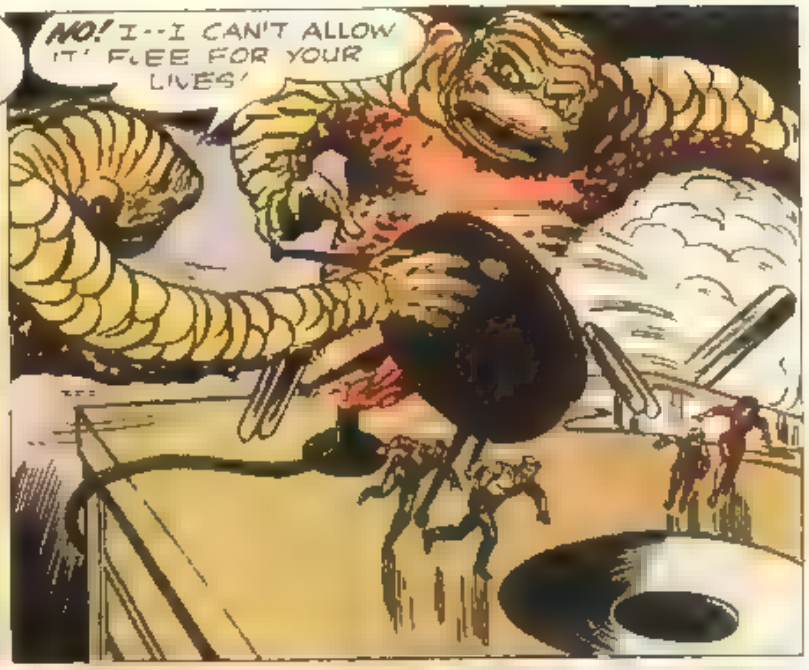
MINUTES LATER, THE PRISONERS FROM THE FUTURE ARE WHISKED OFF, AND...
WH-WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, CORKY!

BEFORE LONG...
THEIR HEARTBEAT IS TWICE AS FAST AS IN NORMAL BEINGS!
INDEED AND I LEARN THAT YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE TOO! WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM?

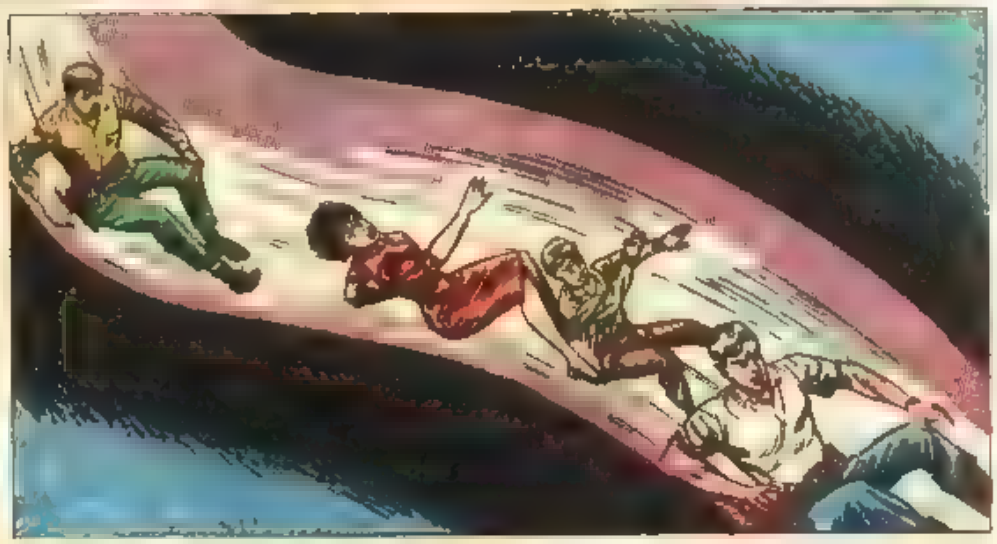
THERE IS ONE POSITIVE CHECK THE TR-2 SOLUTION! I WILL REDUCE THEM AT ONCE

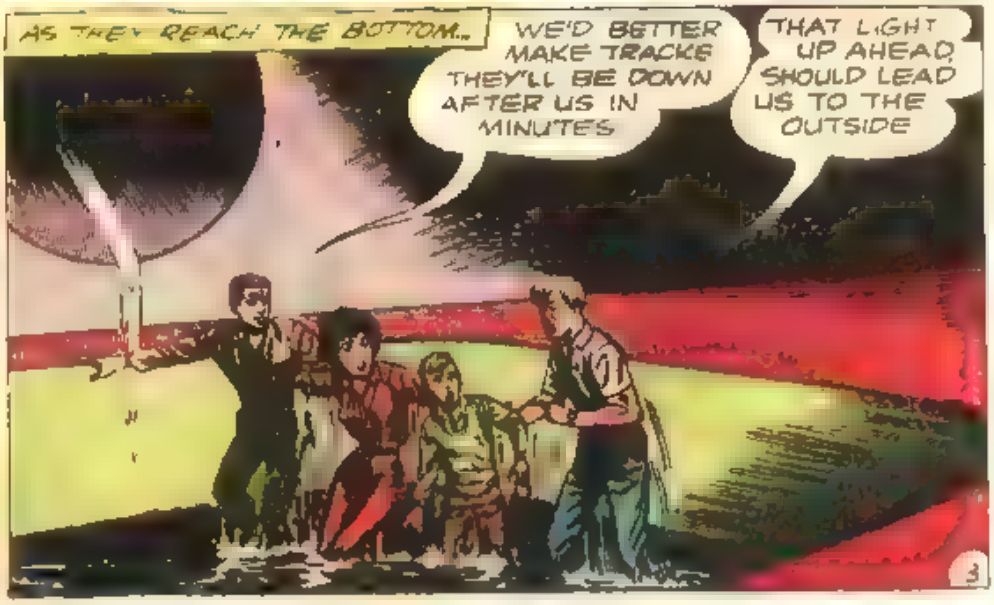

THIS PLANET-- EARTH! BUT WE LIVE FIVE MILLION YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
HMPH! WE WILL NEVER GET THE TRUTH OUT OF THEM! I HAVE A SUSPICION THEY MAY BE XERXONS, THOSE BEINGS WHO DEVELOPED A METHOD OF CHANGING THEIR BODILY STRUCTURE!

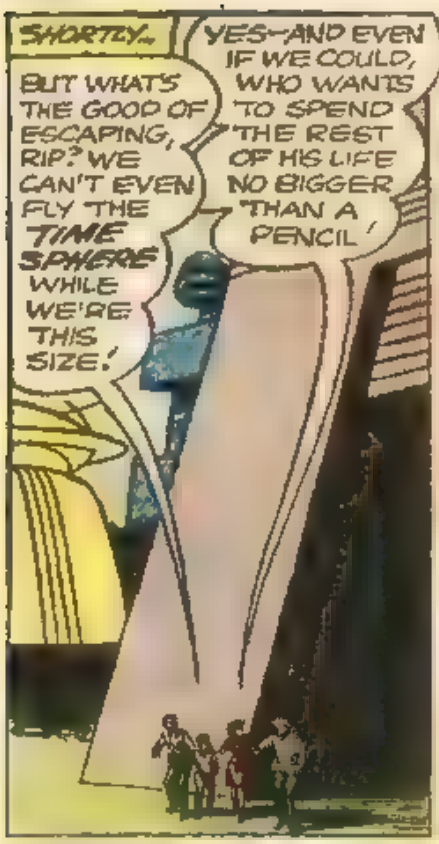
HAVE YOU LOST ALL YOUR SENSE OF JUSTICE AND HUMANITY?
QUIET! YOU SOUND LIKE AN ANCIENT WITH YOUR FOOLISH MORALIZING! LET ME GET ON WITH MY WORK


NO! I--I CAN'T ALLOW IT! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

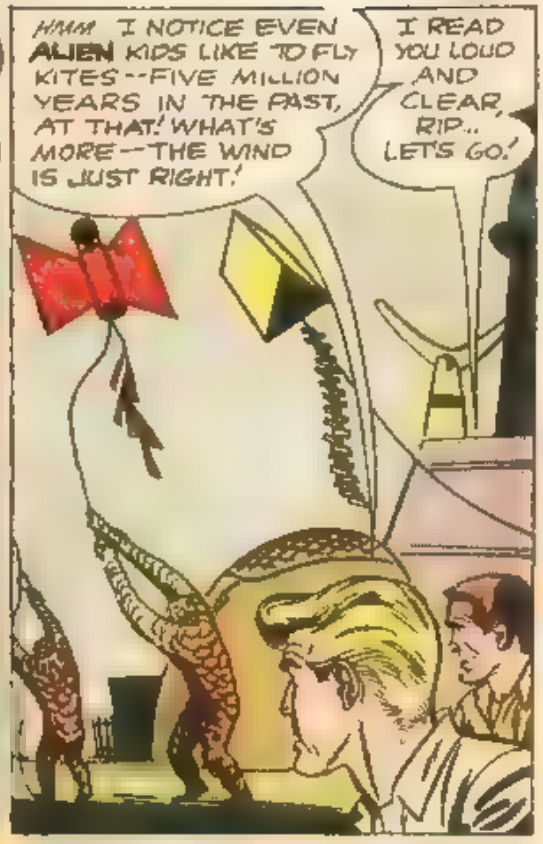
HURRY DOWN THIS DRAIN




AS THEY REACH THE BOTTOM...
WE'D BETTER MAKE TRACKS THEY'LL BE DOWN AFTER US IN MINUTES
THAT LIGHT UP AHEAD SHOULD LEAD US TO THE OUTSIDE


SHORTLY...
BUT WHAT'S THE GOOD OF ESCAPING, RIP? WE CAN'T EVEN FLY THE TIME SPHERE WHILE WE'RE THIS SIZE!
YES—AND EVEN IF WE COULD, WHO WANTS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE NO BIGGER THAN A PENCIL!

STEADY, YOU TWO.. THERE MUST BE A REVERSE SWITCH ON THAT SHRINK-RAY! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK IN THERE, SOMEHOW—AND USE IT!

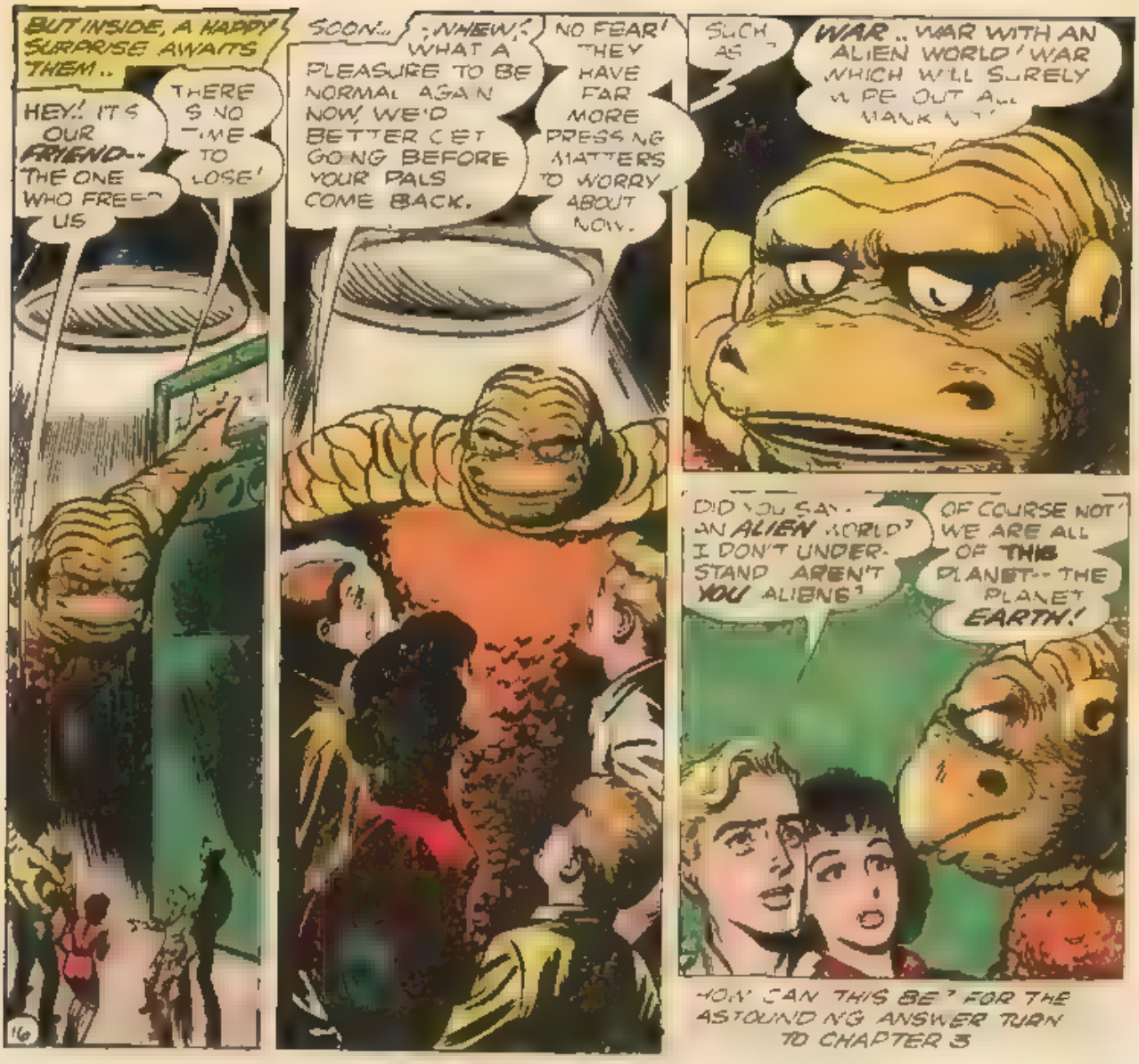

HMM I NOTICE EVEN ALIEN KIDS LIKE TO FLY KITES—FIVE MILLION YEARS IN THE PAST, AT THAT! WHAT'S MORE—THE WIND IS JUST RIGHT!
I READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, RIP.. LET'S GO!

SHHH.. EASY DOES IT! OUR TARGET FOR TODAY—THE KID WITH A STRING TRAILING ON THE GROUND!

A MOMENT LATER.
GET A GOOD GRIP EVERY-ONE!

EEEYOW! TINY CREATURES!
YAAAA!

AS THE DIMINUTIVE FIGURES ARE LOFTED INTO THE AIR...
THAT LAB'S ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, RIP!
GET SET, EVERYONE...
OKAY! LET GO - AND LEAP!
NOW, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET THIS WINDOW OPEN!
BUT JUST THEN...
SUFFERING CATS! THE WINDOW'S OPENING! WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED!
JEEPERS!... WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM!



HOW CAN THIS BE? FOR THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER TURN TO CHAPTER 3

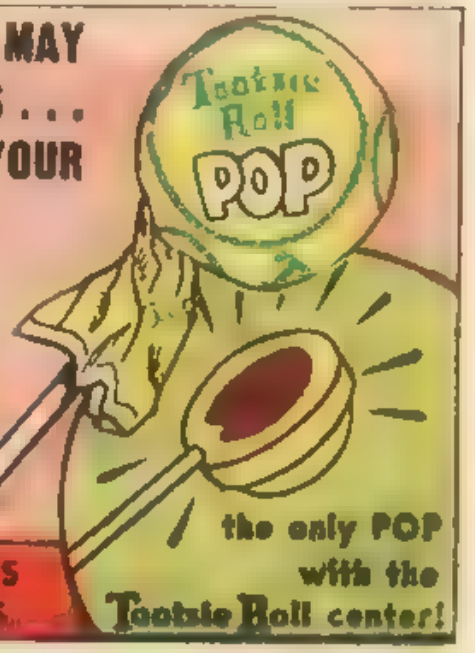
ADVERTISEMENT

LOOK AT THIS TOPHAT.
IS THE DISTANCE FROM THE TOP OF THE HAT TO THE BOTTOM THE SAME AS THE DISTANCE FROM ONE TIP OF THE BRIM TO THE OTHER?

Answer: MEASURE IT AND YOU WILL FIND BOTH ARE THE SAME SIZE!

YOUR EYES MAY PLAY TRICKS... BUT NOT YOUR TASTE!

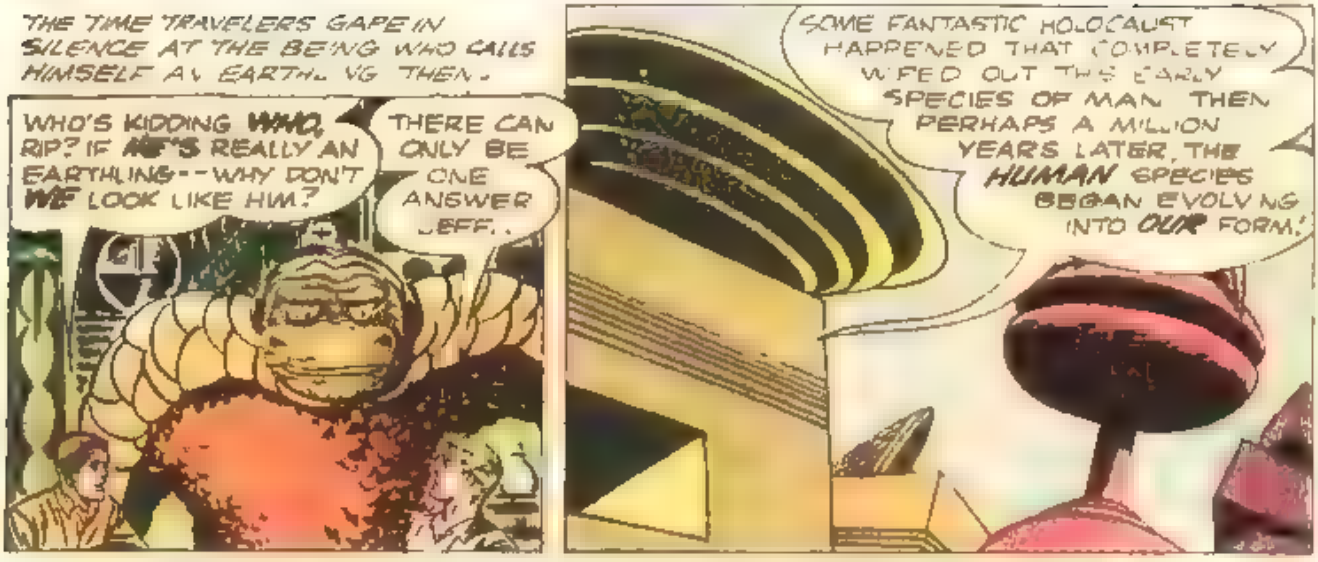
buy a Tootsie Roll POP

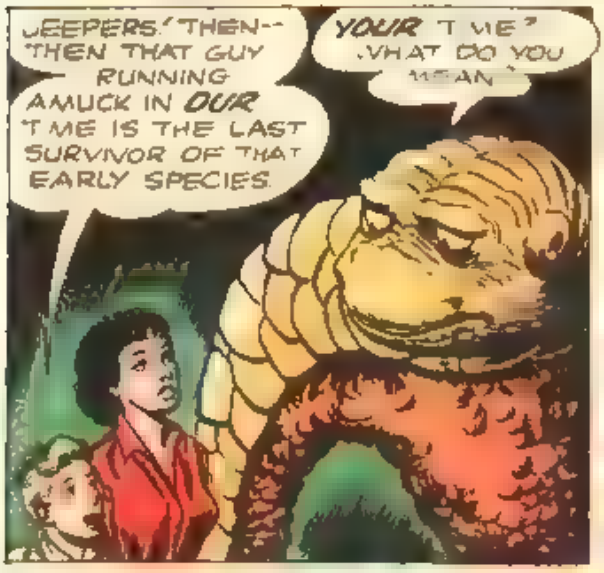


6 DELICIOUS FLAVORS

the only POP with the Tootsie Roll center!

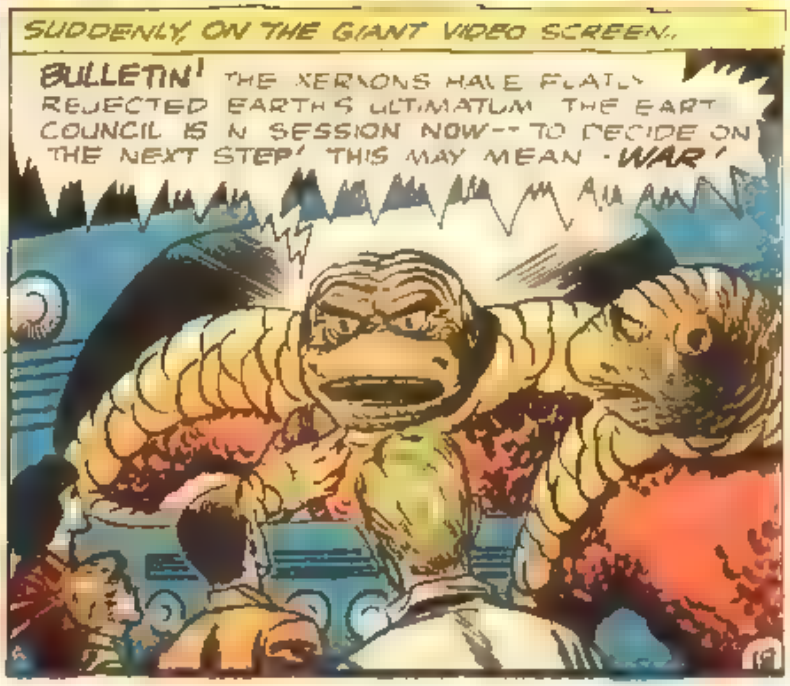
ALIEN MISSILES RAIN DOWN ON THE HELPLESS PLANET-- AND THERE IS NOTHING THE TIME TRAVELERS OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO TO PREVENT.
RIP! EVERYTHING ON EARTH'S SURFACE IS BEING PULVERIZED!
THE DAY THE EARTH DIED
Chapter 3
YES. NO HUMAN LIFE WILL BE POSSIBLE ON EARTH FOR AT LEAST 1,000,000 YEARS!

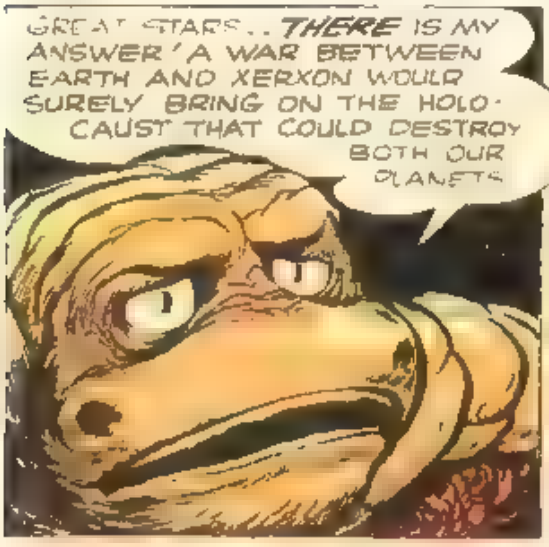

THE TIME TRAVELERS GAPE IN SILENCE AT THE BEING WHO CALLS HIMSELF AN EARTHLING THEN.
WHO'S KIDDING WHO, RIP? IF HE'S REALLY AN EARTHLING--WHY DON'T WE LOOK LIKE HIM?
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE ANSWER JEFF.
SOME FANTASTIC HOLOCAUST HAPPENED THAT COMPLETELY WIPED OUT THE EARLY SPECIES OF MAN. THEN PERHAPS A MILLION YEARS LATER, THE HUMAN SPECIES BEGAN EVOLVING INTO OUR FORM!


JEEPERS! THEN--THEN THAT GUY RUNNING AMUCK IN OUR TIME IS THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THAT EARLY SPECIES.
YOUR TIME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

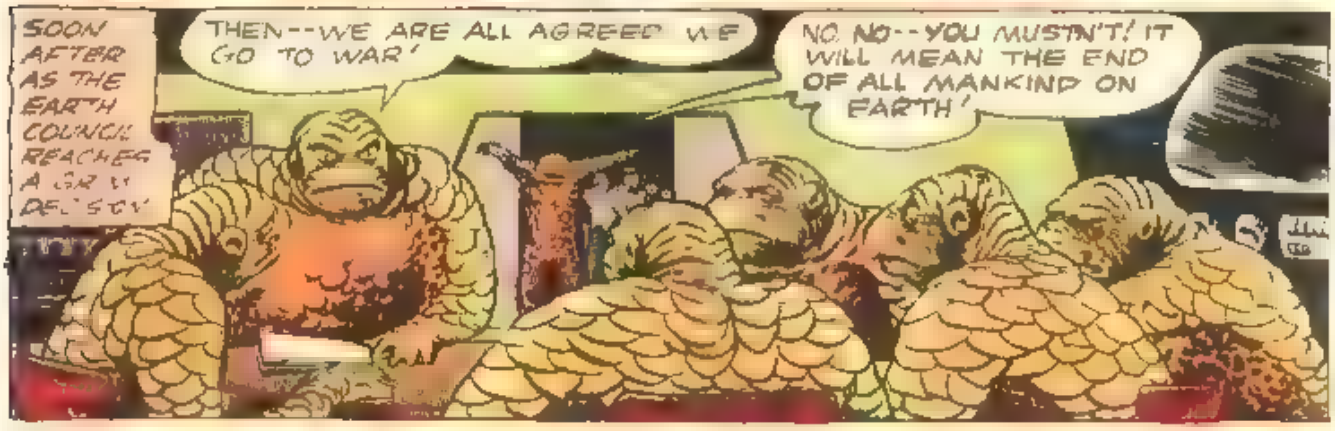
INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SOUND, WE ARE FROM A CIVILIZATION FIVE MILLION YEARS IN THE FUTURE
THEN THEN WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT OUR SPECIES BEING WIPED OUT MUST BE TRUE

BUT WHAT KIND OF HOLOCAUST COULD OCCUR TO DESTROY OUR SPECIES--AND OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION--WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE?


SUDDENLY, ON THE GIANT VIDEO SCREEN...
BULLETIN! THE XERXONS HAVE FLATLY REJECTED EARTH'S ULTIMATUM. THE EARTH COUNCIL IS IN SESSION NOW--TO DECIDE ON THE NEXT STEP! THIS MAY MEAN WAR!


GREAT STARS... THERE IS MY ANSWER! A WAR BETWEEN EARTH AND XERXON WOULD SURELY BRING ON THE HOLOCAUST THAT COULD DESTROY BOTH OUR PLANETS

LISTEN... YOU MUST COME TO THE COUNCIL WITH ME! TELL THEM WHAT YOU KNOW! IT MAY BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES!
LEAD THE WAY, FRIEND!


SOON AFTER AS THE EARTH COUNCIL REACHED A GRAVE DECISION
THEN--WE ARE ALL AGREED! WE GO TO WAR!
NO, NO--YOU MUSTN'T! IT WILL MEAN THE END OF ALL MANKIND ON EARTH!

SILENCE, TABORE! HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN, WHEN WE SHALL BE FIRST, WITH A SURPRISE ATTACK!
HOLD ON! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A PLANET NAMED XERXON--BUT TABORE IS RIGHT ABOUT EARTH! WE KNOW--BECAUSE WE ARE FROM THE FUTURE!

FROM THE FUTURE, INDEED! YOU MUST TRULY TAKE US FOR FOOLS! SIGNAL THE ATTACK!

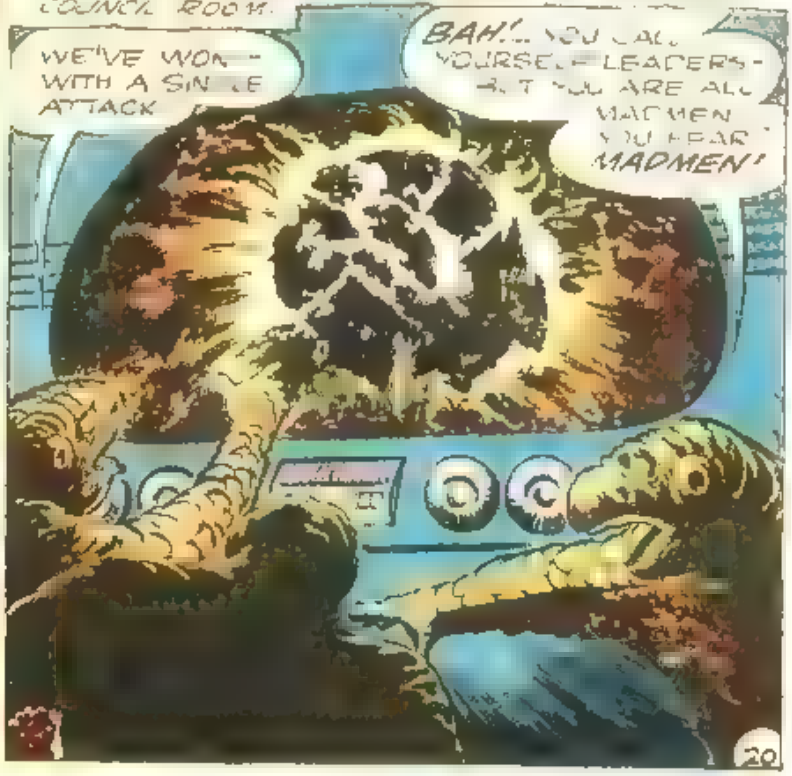
CODE 1857 MARK 74
NO, NO, NO

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

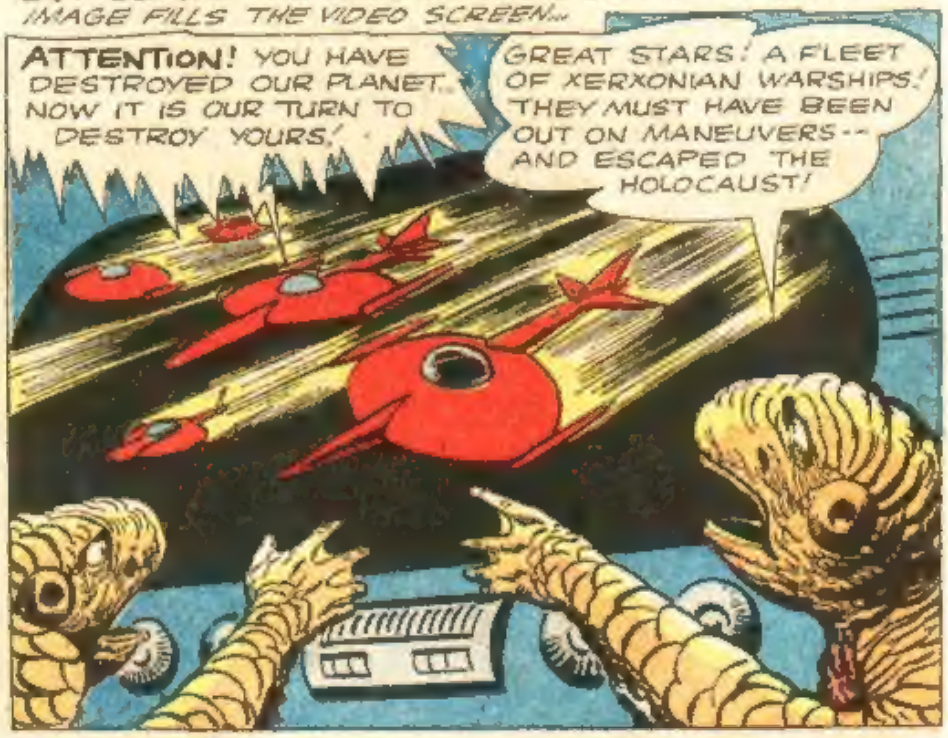
LETHAL MISSILES DEADLIER THAN ANYTHING THE UNIVERSE HAS EVER KNOWN

VAROOM

THE ALIEN PLANET--XERXON--SHUDDERS AND WRITHES UNDER THE COSMIC BLOWS UNTIL
VOOM


AS THE AWESOME SPECTACLE IS REVIEWED ON THE GIANT SPACE SCREEN IN THE EARTH COUNCIL ROOM.
WE'VE WON--WITH A SINGLE ATTACK
BAH!... YOU CALL YOURSELF LEADERS--BUT YOU ARE ALL MADMEN YOU HEAR? MADMEN!

WE HAVE HEARD ENOUGH OF YOU, TABORE! PLACE HIM UNDER ARREST!

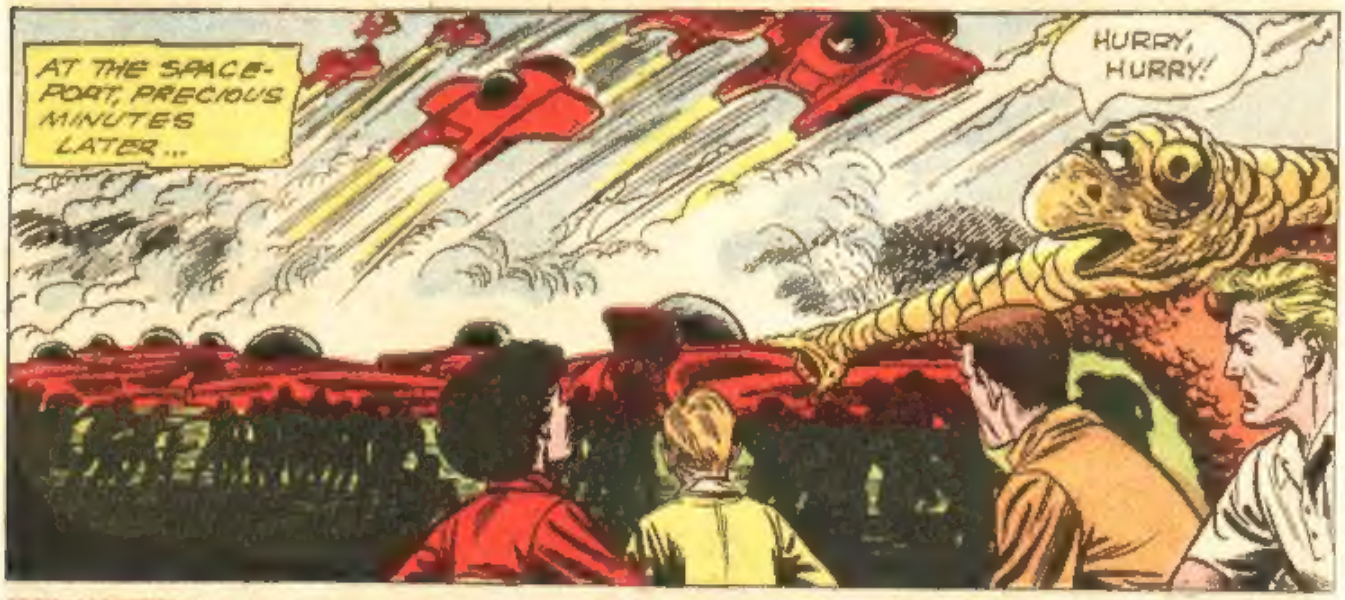

BUT BEFORE THE ORDER CAN BE CARRIED OUT, ANOTHER IMAGE FILLS THE VIDEO SCREEN...
ATTENTION! YOU HAVE DESTROYED OUR PLANET... NOW IT IS OUR TURN TO DESTROY YOURS!
GREAT STARS! A FLEET OF XERXONIAN WARSHIPS! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN OUT ON MANEUVERS -- AND ESCAPED THE HOLOCAUST!

W-WE MUST EVACUATE OUR PLANET AT ONCE! XERXON'S WEAPONS ARE ALMOST AS POWERFUL AS OUR OWN!
SO--YOU INTEND TO LEAVE EVERYBODY ELSE TO PAY THE PRICE OF YOUR RECKLESSNESS -- WHILE YOU SAVE YOUR SKINS!

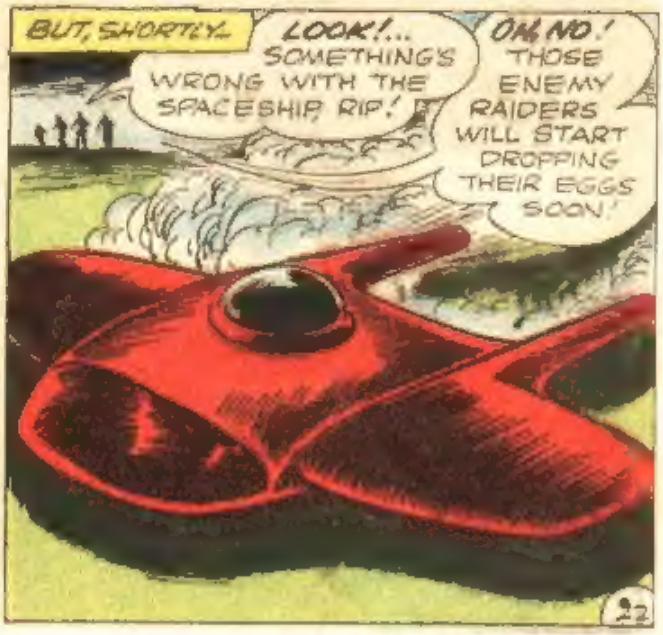
SILENCE!... TO THE SPACEPORT!

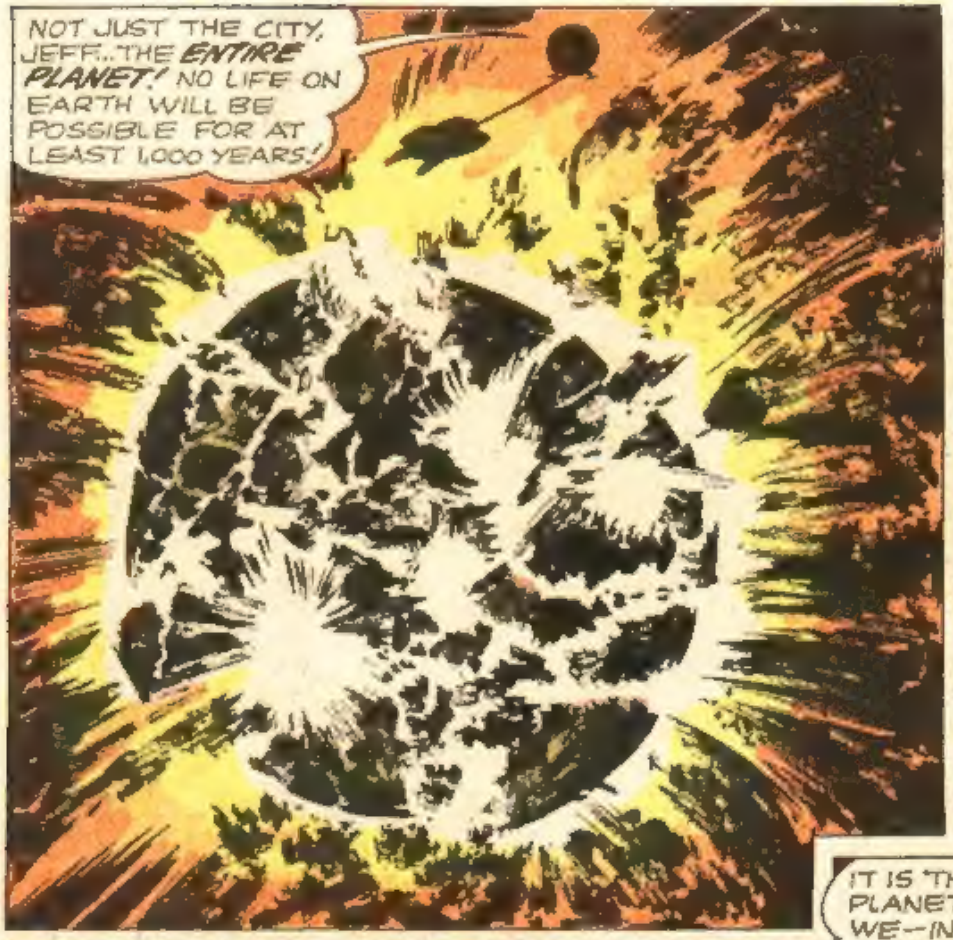
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

AS THE BRIEF BATTLE ENDS...
I MUST WARN THE PEOPLE... WE WILL EVACUATE AS MANY AS WE CAN!


AT THE SPACE-PORT, PRECIOUS MINUTES LATER...
HURRY, HURRY!

AT LENGTH...
THE LAST SHIP--FOR US! HOW CAN WE THANK YOU?
THERE ISN'T TIME! THAT XERXONIAN FLEET WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT... AND WE'VE GOT TO GET INTO OUR TIME SPHERE!

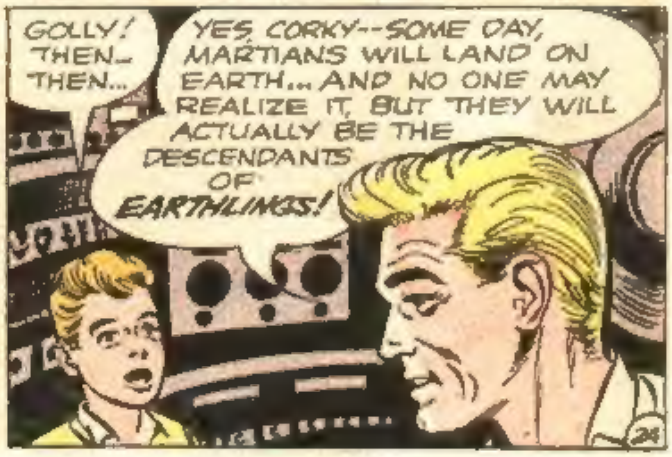

BUT, SHORTLY...
LOOK!... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE SPACESHIP, RIP!
OH, NO! THOSE ENEMY RAIDERS WILL START DROPPING THEIR EGGS SOON!

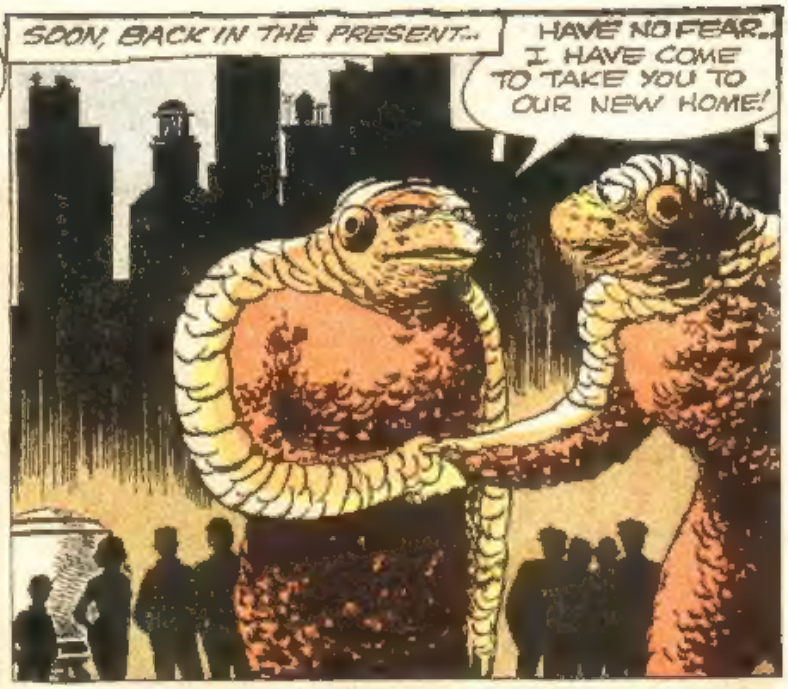

NOT JUST THE CITY, JEFF...THE ENTIRE PLANET! NO LIFE ON EARTH WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR AT LEAST 1,000 YEARS!

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT US? WHERE CAN WE GO?
DON'T DESPAIR, TABORE... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

PRESENTLY...
MEET YOUR NEW HOME, TABORE--A DESERTED PLANET! SIGNAL YOUR OTHER SHIPS TO LAND!
THIS PLANET--BEYOND THE ORBIT THAT XERXON HAD... WHAT IS IT?

IT IS THE PLANET THAT WE--IN OUR TIME--CALL MARS!
IT SEEMS LUSH WITH VEGETATION... WE SHALL REBUILD OUR HOMES HERE!


GOLLY! THEN... THEN...
YES, CORKY--SOME DAY, MARTIANS WILL LAND ON EARTH... AND NO ONE MAY REALIZE IT, BUT THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE THE DESCENDANTS OF EARTHLINGS!



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